

MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Reports from the Chief Engineer and the Adjutant General's office, relative to the Military Academy, and cadets therein.

JANUARY 23, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 30, 1844.*

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 15th instant, requiring the Secretary of War to report to the House "the number of cadets who have been admitted to the Military Academy at West Point since its establishment; how many have remained the term required by law; how many have graduated; how many are now in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold; also the aggregate amount of money appropriated to defray the expenses of said Military Academy," I respectfully transmit, herewith, reports from the Chief Engineer and the Adjutant General's office, containing the information embraced in the resolution, as fully as it can be furnished by this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. PORTER.

Hon. JNO. W. JONES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 29, 1844.

SIR: In answer to so much of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th instant, touching the Military Academy, as was referred for a report to this office, I have the honor to submit the following:

1st. "*How many (cadets) have remained the term required by law?*"

On an examination of the laws relating to the academy, there does not appear to have been any prescribed term of service for the cadets until the act of April 29, 1812, which required them to engage for "five years, un-

less sooner discharged." This period was extended to *eight* years, by the act of July 5, 1838. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the passage of this last act, to permit a compliance with its requirements in respect to length of service.

In regard to the law of 1812, I deem it proper to remark, that, as it fixed the period of service at five years, unless *sooner discharged*, and the Government have the power to retain an officer as long as his services may be wanted, there is but one mode of exit which can be considered as a failure on the part of the officer to comply with his engagement, viz., *desertion*. In this view, then, the first inquiry of the resolution might be answered by saying that every graduate of the academy had remained the term required by law. But, supposing the object to be to ascertain how many served *less* than *five* years, I respectfully state, that, of the cadets admitted since the act of April 29, 1812, there have been graduated to the present time 1,118; of whom 61 resigned without having served five years, and six declined commissions in the army; 323 resigned after more than five years' service; 33 were disbanded, dropped, or dismissed; 11 were killed in action, and 147 have died in service.

2d. "*How many are now in the military service*" of the United States, and the grades they respectively hold?

The number of graduates of the Military Academy, now in the military service, is 542; and the following table will show the grades they respectively hold.

Regiments and corps.	Colonels.	Lieut. colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	1st lieutenants.	2d lieutenants.	Brevet 2d lieutenants.	Paymasters.	Military storekeepers.	Professors.	Total.
Adjutant General's department	-	-	-	*2	*4	-	-	-	-	-	6
Quartermaster's department	-	-	-	1	*26	-	-	-	-	-	27
Subsistence department	-	-	-	2	*4	-	-	-	-	-	6
Pay department	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Corps of engineers	-	1	2	3	12	12	1	-	-	-	43
Corps of topographical engineers	-	1	-	3	8	10	6	4	-	-	32
Ordnance department	-	1	-	2	10	6	6	7	1	-	33
Regiment of dragoons	-	-	-	-	5	8	8	4	-	-	25
1st artillery	-	-	-	-	8	19	10	2	-	-	39
2d artillery	-	-	1	-	8	19	10	5	-	-	43
3d artillery	-	-	1	-	8	20	10	6	-	-	46
4th artillery	-	-	-	-	8	20	10	4	-	-	42
1st infantry	-	-	-	-	9	4	6	4	-	-	23
2d infantry	-	-	-	-	8	8	5	5	-	-	26
3d infantry	-	-	-	1	9	5	10	4	-	-	29
4th infantry	-	-	-	-	6	8	5	5	-	-	24
5th infantry	-	-	-	-	9	7	3	4	-	-	23
6th infantry	-	-	1	-	10	3	7	3	-	-	24
7th infantry	-	-	-	-	10	10	6	5	-	-	31
8th infantry	-	-	-	-	9	4	7	5	-	-	25
Regiment of riflemen	-	-	-	-	2	7	10	2	-	-	21
Military Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5

* These officers also hold *regimental* commissions. See acts of July 5 and 7, 1838.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. G. FREEMAN,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,
Secretary of War.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 23, 1844.

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th instant, which was referred to this office for a report, inquiring—

1st. As to "*the number of cadets who have been admitted to the Military Academy at West Point since its establishment,*" I have to state that this number, up to the 1st of January, 1844, is 2,942.

2d. As to "*how many have remained in service the term required by law,*" this office does not possess the means of giving correct information. It does not appear that there was any law exacting from cadets a certain length of service, until 29th April, 1812, when it was required that they should serve five years, unless sooner discharged. The law then passed continued in force until the 5th of July, 1838, when the period was extended to eight years, by a law still in operation.

3d. As to "*how many have graduated,*" I have to state, that the number that have graduated, from the establishment of the academy to the 1st of January, 1844, is

The number in the present 1st class, to be graduated in the coming		
June, (to which time the existing appropriations extend,) is	-	25

Making the whole number of graduates	-	-	-	1,231
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4th. As to "*how many are now in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold,*" this office cannot answer.

5th. As to "*the aggregate amount of money appropriated to defray the expenses of said Military Academy,*" from its establishment to the 30th of June, 1844, I have to make the following statement :

For purchase of ground; erection and repairs of buildings; construction of roads, wharfs, fences, &c.; purchase of library, maps, instruments, philosophical and chemical ap- paratus; models in engineering for drawing; purchase of minerals; regulating ground, &c., &c.	-	-	-	\$711,399 88
For pay and subsistence of officers, professors, teachers, and cadets; fuel and stationery; transportation of materials, stores, and officers' baggage; postage; expenses of boards of visitors; pay of adjutant's and quartermaster's clerks, and for other contingent and incidental expenses	-	-	-	3,291,501 27
				<hr/> \$4,002,901 15 <hr/>

All which is respectfully submitted :

JOS. G. TOTTEN,
Colonel and Chief Engineer.

HON. JAMES M. PORTER,
Secretary of War.

House of Representatives
Washington, January 23, 1914

Sir, in reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th instant which was referred to this office for a report, I have the honor to state that the number of students who have been admitted to the Military Academy at West Point since its establishment, I have to state that the number up to the 1st of January, 1914, is 3,312.

As to those who have been referred to service the year required by the law, I have to state that the number of students who have been referred to service is 1,200. The number of students who have been referred to service is 1,200. The number of students who have been referred to service is 1,200.

The number in the present list class to be graduated in the coming year (to which also the existing appointments extend) is 1,200.

Respecting the whole number of graduates, I have to state that the number of graduates is 1,200. The number of graduates is 1,200. The number of graduates is 1,200.

As to the number of students who are in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold, this office cannot answer. As to the number of students who are in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold, this office cannot answer.

As to the number of students who are in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold, this office cannot answer. As to the number of students who are in the military service of the United States, and the grade they respectively hold, this office cannot answer.

For purchase of ground; erection and repairs of buildings; construction of roads, wharves, fences, etc.; purchase of library, maps, instruments, philosophical and chemical apparatus; models in engineering for drawing; purchase of minerals, vegetable ground, etc., etc.

For pay and subsistence of officers, professors, teachers and assistants; fuel and electricity; transportation of materials, stores and other baggage; postage; expenses of boards of visitors; pay of adjutants and quartermasters' clerks; and for other contingent and incidental expenses.

\$1,000,000.00

JOS. C. TOTTER
Colonel and Chief Engineer

All which is respectfully submitted.

Hon. James M. Forney,
Secretary of War.